Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

June 11, 1993

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist HLS

RE: Site Inspection, MiVida Reclamation Site, M/037/028, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 5, 1993
Time of Inspection: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Conditions: Wet, cold, muddy, snowing, ongoing runoff/erosion evident
Participants: Holland Shepherd, Tony Gallegos, and Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To evaluate the stability of the reclaimed sites and gather site data for the final stage of reclamation to be performed by the Division. The site was reclaimed during the spring of 1992.

Upper MiVida

This portion of the site was seeded in the spring of 1992. Small rosettes of sweetclover and crested wheatgrass can be seen growing on the reclaimed areas. Plant growth is more abundant on areas where topsoil was deposited. Reseeding is recommended for the fall of 1993. Reseeding would help boost plant community development and help in stabilizing the site.

Instability on the reclaimed slopes of the fill and waste was evident by several erosion gullies ranging from a few inches to 2-3 feet deep. The gullying is due to sparse to non-existing vegetation, the fine nature of the regraded surface materials, poor drainage control off from the main access road, and above normal precipitation runoff.

Where the main drainage channel has been rerouted down the face of the regraded waste dump, surface runoff has already down-cut the channel 1-2+ additional feet in depth. On the steeper sloped sections, the fine material is being washed out and the coarser material is left exposed. Proper armoring of the main ephemeral channel should have been performed, but wasn't because of lack of funds. Through natural erosional processes, the channel may eventually riprap/armor itself with coarse rock exposed as the channel cuts deeper. Some of the lower, flatter areas adjacent to the backfilled MiVida portal are agrading (collecting sediments) and creating a more diffuse, braided stream channel profile.

A sink hole has developed at the site of upper the MiVida (escape shaft?) head frame. The hole is currently about 12' deep, 10' long x 6' wide, and rectangular in shape. This will have to be repaired.

The old backfilled MiVida portal area appears stable. Prior to last years reclamation efforts, much of the surface runoff was draining directly into this portal and exiting out of the lower McCormick portal/tunnel.

Middle MiVida/McCormick

The main waste dump/pad area adjacent to the McCormick portal has developed a couple of significant downslope gullies. The gullies are a result of ponded surface runoff that has breached the main pad perimeter berm which had been reestablished during reclamation. Unless an alternate surface drainage control plan can be devised, the gullies will probably need to be riprapped to stabilize/control the downslope erosion.

The signs established by Holland Shepherd and Paul Sjoblom are still intact. The McCormick portal appears stable. The rail cars and engine haven't been vandalized yet. The dump face appears stable except for the above mentioned erosion gullies. The main reestablished ephemeral stream channel (which was flowing @10 gpm) was very turbid/silty and is proceeding to erode down to bedrock. The toe of the regraded old dumps has been eroded by recent streamflow as has the upper waste dump.

The pad area and access road have not been reclaimed. The final reclamation plans will need to include these remaining areas.

Lower MiVida

Some very serious erosion has occurred at the southwest end of the pad where the stream channel drops steeply down below the access road. Head cutting of 6 to 7 feet has occurred near the lower end (drop off) of the loose regraded channel fill material/debris.

Further west along the north edge of the lower access road leading to the ore storage bin, major active slumping is evident. Large fissures and/or tension cracks have appeared which are 7-8 feet deep and 2-3 feet across where the embankment is pulling away from the slope. These two areas will likely require serious attention to correct the instabilities. The lower pad remains unreclaimed as well as the lower access road leading to it.

A partially exposed culvert is located at the west end of the access road. A UNOCAL gas line [(801) 686-2238] crosses the west end of the access road.

jb
cc: Roger Smith, Energy Fuels
Lowell Braxton, DOGM
Minerals staff (route)
MIVIDA.ISP


5 5'93


5 5'93


5 5'93


5 5'93

M/037/028